

TRINITY

This is a difficult subject. It is beyond our human experience. God is three-in-one. With God nothing is impossible as God is transcendent. We cannot limit him to our own experience he is beyond that.

What is God like?

He is a living personal Spirit that does things. He is not an impersonal power or energy.

Psalm 115 He is personal. He is faithful and loves us. (vs 1) He is our help and shield. (vs 9,10,11).

He has all power available to Him. He is The maker of heaven and earth. (vs 15) He is not a man made idol. (Vs 4-8). He was present before the world came into being and He made it.

The trinity is **not as it is described in the Quran** Suras 5:119,4:171 and 5:75-76 God Mary and Jesus.

The word **Trinity** is not in the bible. It is a word used to try and explain that God has three aspects to Him. He is one and yet He has three parts to Him. One part we call, The **Father**, one part we call The **Son**, and another part we call The **Spirit**. The three aspects are sometimes called persons having distinct functions and yet work together in perfect unity and harmony.

In nature we can see an idea of the trinity: - {water, ice, and steam.}, (Sun, heat and light.) (Fire, light and heat) (Body, spirit and soul) (mind, thought and speech belong together and yet are distinct).

In **Deut 6:4** God commands us to love The Lord our God in three ways: - with all our heart and mind and soul. One person with three aspects to them. The Heart, the mind and soul are distinctly different.

(If we look at a 3 dimensional cube, we may see only a square at first and yet it has 3 aspects to it.)

I could be a mother, a daughter and a sister at the same time.

How can God be three and yet be one?

The bible implies that He is like this: -

In Genesis God is described as “ us” and “our” **Gen 1:26** Let us make man in our own image.

Also **Gen 3:22, 11:7. Isa 6:8**

Deut 6:4 El = God Elohim = Gods. “ The Lord our Gods, The Lord is *one*.(Jahweh *lord* Elohenu *gods* Jahweh *lord* echad *one*) you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, soul and mind”.

Isa 7:14 The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a **son** and will call him Immanuel. (Which means **God with us**). God is with us in human form.

The idea of **the trinity** is in Isaiah: -

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a **son** is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty **God**, Everlasting **Father**, Prince of peace.

Isa 63: 8- 9 He (God) said, “ surely they are my people, sons who will not be false to me, and so he became their **saviour**. In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them.” **Vs 10** “yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit”

In these verses can we see that if we are sons then God must be our father! So God is God and also **father** (and saviour.) and God is Holy Spirit too.

Mat 3:16 “As soon as **Jesus** was baptised, he went up out of the water, At that moment heaven was opened and he (John) saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lightening on Him and a voice from heaven said this is my **Son** whom I love; with him I am well pleased”.

Mat 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of The **Father** and of The **Son** and of The Holy **Spirit**”.

John 8:58 “Jesus answered the Jews saying “ I tell you the truth, before Abraham was, I am. Then the Jews took up stones to stone Him” Why did they want to stone Him? Because by saying he was I AM. He says he is God (I AM was the title used by God, when he addressed Moses at the burning bush). He was therefore saying He is eternal and he is equal to God.

John 10: 30 “I, and The Father are one.”

John 10:33 The Jews said “We are not stoning you for the miracles replied the Jews, but for blasphemy, because you a mere man claim to be God. “**John 10:37 - 38** Jesus replied “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does, But if I do it, even though you do not believe me believe in the miracles, that you may know and understand that The father is in me, and I in The Father”

John 10:38 Jesus said about himself:-“ know and understand that the **Father is in me and I In The Father.** “

John 14:9 “He that has seen me has seen The Father.”

The Father is God Mt 6:8

The Father Initiates the trinity

The Son is God Jn 1: 1-14

The Son Implements the trinity

The Holy Spirit is God. Mk 3:29 Jn 15:26

The Holy Spirit Empowers the trinity

The grace of The Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of The Holy Spirit can be with us all.
2 Cor 13:14

The importance of the doctrine of the trinity

Just about anything that matters in Christianity hangs on the truth of God's three-in-oneness. E.g. sin. Sin separates us from God and results in God's anger. Sin concerns two lots of people. The offending sinner and The offended God. If Jesus is not God, my sin has nothing to do with Him. Once when Jesus forgave a man's sins he was accused of blasphemy, for only God can forgive sins. (**Mk 2: 5-7**)

Only if Jesus is God come to us in person can he deal with our sins. And if he deals with our sins he must be God.

Jesus teachings about himself

He claimed to be equal with God. **John 5:18** This is unique among religious leaders.

Jesus claimed to be judge, in the parable of the sheep and goats. **Mat 25:31-46.** Only God is judge.

Jesus accepted worship. When Thomas worshipped him. **Mat 14:33** This is in contrast to the apostles Paul and Barnabas, who were horrified when the men at Lystra tried to worship them. **Acts 14:8-18**

They knew that only God was to be worshipped.

Jesus alone among the founders of religion spoke in this way. Mohammed and other leaders claim to be messengers of God. Mohammed was the prophet of God: Gautama (The Buddha) became the enlightened one. Confucius is thought of as a wise teacher. They felt they had a deeper insight into the truth, which they wanted to pass on.

Jesus claimed to be the very source of truth **Jesus is the saviour of the world.**

But was Jesus right?

No other founders of great religions thought of themselves as Jesus did. Yet some rulers have claimed to be divine. Herod Agrippa 1st (Acts 12:19-24). Such rulers were proud and arrogant. Yet Jesus's claims were more than this. Only 3 kinds of men make such claims: unbalanced men with great but false ideas about themselves; liars who want to impress people; or the one person of whom the claims are true. We cannot deny Jesus as God and then say he is just a great teacher and a good man, because what do we do about his own claims about himself. He would not be a good man if he made these claims and if they were untrue. He could not be a great teacher if he was wrong on this fundamental aspect of his teaching- even if he sincerely believed what he said. We have to accept him as God, or we cannot make sense of him at all.

If we examine Jesus behaviour on earth we will see that He is God.

Those who lived at the time of Jesus watched him closely. Several of them came to the conclusion that His claims, incredible though they were, were in fact true. They were forced to this decision by the sheer quality of his life- by the sanity, wisdom, strength, and transparent goodness.

Some of these were members of the party which opposed Jesus and they had a lot to loose. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathaea for example. It probably also was not too good for the career of the Roman Centurion to declare "beyond all doubt that this man was innocent" (Luke 23:47).

Others knew him so well that they could see through a lie or a bluff. After 3 years of close acquaintance with Jesus, Peter wrote: "He committed no sin" (1 John 2:5)

When Jesus was on earth God was not just in Jesus but also everywhere. He is omnipresent.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself **2 Cor 5:18-21** at the same time God was also in heaven. All of him was in Jesus and yet all of him was everywhere at the same time. A bit like air being everywhere and yet air is inside a person. We have access to all the air and yet use only a little of it. Jesus, while on earth had access to all the power available to Him but limited himself to using only some of it. At any one time He could have used all the power since He is God but he didn't.

The parable of the tenants. Mat 21:33-46

This story was told by Jesus to explain something about himself and the world we live in.

Who were the servants? Jesus was implying that they were the Prophets.

Who were the tenants? People in this world who are meant to look after it. They do not own the world.

Who owns the world? God owns the world. We who live in it must look to God and worship Him.

Who was the **father?** **God.** Who was the **son?** **Jesus.** What happens to the son? He is killed. Jesus was predicting that that he was going to be killed by unbelievers. Why do the tenants kill the son? In order to gain the land. They don't have respect for the son.

What does Jesus imply here about the tenants? That they want to own the world and ignore its maker.

What happens to the tenants? The vineyard is given to others who look after it better.

What does God want us to do? To respect the son and to worship God.

Can we use this parable to help our friends understand that Jesus is The Son and that God is saying this too?